

# OLD MASSIVE WILL STAND

Action of Geographic Board in Changing Name of Colorado's Highest Peak Resented — Prof. Gannett Opposed Change

## PIONEERS TOOK ACTION

Indignation at the action of the United States Geographic board in designating the highest point of Mount Massive as "Gannett Peak" was rife in circles of pioneers and other citizens in Leadville yesterday and resulted in a review of the records pertaining to the naming of Colorado's highest peak, revealing that Henry Gannett, for whom the peak has been named in the 1921 edition of the geographical survey map himself named Mount Massive and that his strenuous opposition was primarily responsible for the failure of the movement on the part of a Denver newspaper to have the name changed to Mount McKinley, shortly after the death of America's martyr president.

Files of the society of Leadville pioneers indicate that a protest was registered with the United States Board of Geographic Names following a meeting of the local organization on October 17, 1901. Thruout the section, residents in groups and individually took it upon themselves to address protests against changing the name of Massive to McKinley to the federal board, and it was in reply to one of these protests that Henry Gannett, then chairman of the United States Board of Geographic Names, wrote:

"I have your letter of the 20th concerning the suggestion that the name Mount Massive be changed to Mount McKinley.

"I think I am safe in saying that the Board of Geographic Names will take no action in this matter whatever. Personally, I am very much interested in it, as I first applied the name, when in 1873 I mapped this country for the Hayden survey."

In a letter to the Leadville Herald Democrat, December 10, 1901, Gannett made the statement:

"In response to your note of inquiry concerning the circumstances attending the christening of Massive mountain, I can only answer that the mountain named itself; its broad heavy outline suggests the name at once."

The proposal to change the name of Mount Massive in 1901 struck deep into the sentimental side of Leadville pioneers. The resolution of the Society of Leadville Pioneers petitioning the Geographic board to retain the name of Massive beautifully expressed the attitude of the "old-timers" toward the great mountain. In part the resolution read:

"Names are but things, until the affections and the lives of men clothe them with sentiment and lend meaning to their utterance. Inanimate objects are thus invested with the composite personality of human toil, struggle and achievement.

"To us, Mount Massive represents more than the attributes of any human entity. In frontier days we washed its feet, gleaning a harvest of golden sands. Later we drove our steel into its rocky heart and wrestled wealth from its concealment there. In decades past our camp fires scattered natal increase o'er its breast. For many years our eyes have watched the sun chase shadow in the morn adown its rugged sides, and shadow follow sunshine to its topmost peak at close of day. In early times it was a landmark from afar to guide us to our cabin's hearths. Our children, and our children's children, first learned its name from old told tales of our adventurous lives. God's acre, where our brothers and our loved ones sleep, nestled within its keeping. Mount Massive is a name endeared to us by old associations, and is a heritage we would bequeathe to after generations of our kindred. Therefore we plead for the retention of its ancient name."

An article of the day in the Herald Democrat spoke of the view from Mount Massive, as follows:

"At the summit of Massive you stand on the highest ridge that divides the watershed of the Atlantic and Pacific. You can see the Arkansas and Frying Pan rivers like slim and tender threads of silver, winding their way in different directions to the two mighty oceans that bound these great United States. As you look to the west, in the dim distance you can see the Wasatch range in Utah, and beyond Aspen, Mt. Sopris rears its snowclad helmet to the skies, while intervening are the Independence and Ashcroft ranges, with their innumerable foothills. To the northwest is the Mount of the Holy Cross, made known to the world by Moran's great picture.

"To the west you look down over four counties.

"To the north you see Long's peak, that has cheered and given new life to thousands of pilgrims who came across the plains during the first gold

Mount Massive  
Leadville  
2-22  
R. Gordon  
Leadville

## THE HERALD

### MASSIVE WILL STAND

(Continued from First Page.)

ment in 1858 when it was Pike's  
or Bust. Gray's peak, above  
etown, and the Silver Plume  
are quite clear, while the hills  
d Breckenridge, Dillon, Kokomo  
Robinson appear as foothills.  
ing from this point the eye cov-  
our counties  
ou turn to the land of the ris-  
un and you behold Pike's Peak,  
le Peaks and the South Park  
ry and again the eye takes in  
counties.

To the south you look on the Ar-  
sas valley, noticing the three  
lege Peaks, Princeton, Harvard  
Yale, while further on the Sangre  
Christo range comes into view,  
h Mount Blanco rearing its hoary  
ad high above the peaks that clust-  
on the range.

"When one starts upon the trip  
the summit the scenery on the  
ail is exceedingly lovely. Innum-  
ble lakes are found, all surrounded  
grand pine timber, all fed from  
springs, and all without inlet or out-  
let, and all as clear as crystal, re-  
fecting the pines on their shores and  
the great pinnacles of the mountains.  
A pretty little lake on a spur of Mas-  
sive lies at the head of Rock creek  
in the heavy timber, and so hidden  
that one never sees it until right on  
its shores.

"From the southwest side, entering  
by way of Dead Man's gulch, behind  
Deer mountain, one of the wildest  
and grandest bits of scenery in the  
Rocky mountains, is unfolded to your  
view; there is a cul-de-sac, table land  
and plateau which has no peer in the  
land, surrounded by crags and ledges,  
with pinnacles of granite rearing  
their needle-like points high into the  
heavens; and this is the sort of coun-  
tary that lies and surrounds Mount  
Massive."

"Mount Massive stands as a sen-  
tinel over Leadville," says the con-  
cluding paragraph of the article.  
"Ages before gold was discovered in  
California gulch, after the wild ex-  
citement of 1878-79, the discovery of  
carbonates, from one era of its min-  
ing history to another, the grand old  
mountain has stood on watch, it has  
listened to the glad acclaim of success,  
and it has heard the funeral dirge  
waft its melancholy note thru the  
thin, rare atmosphere as Leadville's  
sons and daughters were laid to rest  
at its feet. And now irrespective of  
all movements to change its name  
and rob it of its glory, from ages to  
ages until the end comes and its mas-  
sive sides crumble, it will be known  
to the world as Mount Massive."

The appearance of the name "Gan-  
nett Peak" as applying to the high-  
est point on Mount Massive in the  
1921 geographical survey may come  
as a surprise to those who have lived  
within the shadow of the peak for de-  
cades and the action of the board in  
thus naming the peak has already met  
with state-wide protest.

"What? Change old Massive's name!  
'Twould be a shame  
To challenge the genius of the mighty  
mind  
O' Gannett, greatest of his time and  
kind,  
Who saw the name upon the moun-  
tain's breast,  
'It named itself,' he said, and the  
staunch west  
Stands with HIM, tho the fact seems  
strange,  
In changeless opposition to the change.

"What? Change old Massive's name!  
While Sentiment's flame  
Burns in the breasts and brains of  
thos:  
'Who for eternity expect repose  
Within its sheltering shade  
'Their protests will be made  
'Against the blasphemy of the needies  
change  
Of name, for this, the grandest pea  
in all the range!

"What? Change old Massive's name!  
All words are tame  
To voice our opposition. The OL  
west  
Died in its shade! and those who r  
Within the solemn bounds of 'Ev  
green'  
Have rested well within its shelter  
screen.  
Perhaps they in their graves wo  
turn, dismayed!  
Nor sleep so soundly in any ot  
shade."

These stirring words, written sev-  
years ago by F. E. Vaughn as a  
test against a movement to change  
name of the entire mountain to "G  
annett," is peculiarly applicable at  
time, when the board of geogra-  
names of the United States geogra-  
survey has taken upon itself to do  
nate the cone of Mount Massive "G  
annett Peak."

### RECOVERED HIS MEMORY IN ST. PAUL POLICE CO

(By The Associated Press)

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 9.—Frank  
Durward, who disappeared from  
parents' home on Riverside Drive  
York, four years ago while suf-  
fering from shell shock, recovered his  
memory in St. Paul police court when  
confronted suddenly by his brother.  
Police had arrested the man on a  
vagrancy charge but the charge against  
him was dismissed in court. His  
brother, O. V. Durward, a Montana  
ranger, is one of his cowboys who has  
been prohibited too freely of moonshin-  
ing. Frank Durward started from  
court room he bumped against his  
brother. For a tense moment  
they stared at each other. Then  
recognition broke from them and  
memory returned to the young man.  
He became unnerved and  
After Frank had been attended  
by a physician he boarded a train  
with his brother for the east.

### INVESTIGATING SOCIETY 'FOR RELIEF' OF

(By The Associated Press)

Washington, Feb. 9.—A  
report of progress being made all  
over the world in the relief of famine  
in Russia has been prepared  
for President Harding by Secretary  
Hoover. The report, Secretary Hoover  
said today, included work being done  
in Russia by foreign organizations  
and associations in this country.  
In discussion of relief of  
famine in this country the secretary  
of the report covered certain  
which have been raising  
money conspicuously for Russian relief.